GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1610
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2000
POLLUTION DUE TO PLASTIC BAGS
SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the enactment on use of plastic bags and packaging material has remained only on paper due to lack of enforcing agencies at the ground level;

(b) if so, the details of the present status on enforcement of the law on the ban of plastic bags;

(c) the details of steps taken to check the increasing pollution in Metropolitan/major cities and industrial areas in various States during the recent past; and

(d) the details of action plan worked out for the states for 2000-2001 in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)
(a & b): The Ministry of Environment & Forests have brought out Recycled Plastics Manufacture & Usage Rules, 1999The rules provide for enforcement agencies as follows :

(i) The prescribed authority for enforcement of the provisions of these rules related to manufacture and recycling shall be the State Pollution Control Boards in respect of States and the Pollution Control Committees in respect of Union Territories.

(ii) The prescribed authority for enforcement of the provisions of these rules related to the use, collection, segregation, transportation and disposal shall be the District Collector/Deputy Commissioner of the concerned district where no such Authority has been constituted by the State Government/Union Territory administration under any law regarding non-biodegradable garbage.
(c) Final notification on the Recycled Plastics Manufacture & Usage Rules, 1999 was brought out on 2nd September, 1999.The Ministry has written to all the State Governments and Union Territories to strictly enforce these Rules.A number of States and Union Territories have launched campaigns to create awareness against littering of plastic bags. The states of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir,Lakshdweep, Maharashtra, and Punjab have either notified or are in the process of notifying their own legislations to check littering of plastics and other non-biodegradable material.
(d) Enforcement of Recycled Plastics Manufacture & Usage Rules, 1999 has to be co-ordinated at the district level.It is for the State governments to prepare necessary action plans.